

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9149

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 0339

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XA, ML, UV, MILI

SUBJECT: NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE 1975 STUDY GROUP VISIT
TO AFRICA

REF: BAMAKO 519

1. IN MAKING ITS DECISION ON NWC VISIT TO UPPER VOLTA,
DEPARTMENT MUST, OF COURSE, CONSIDER ALL FACTORS WHICH
MIGHT AFFECT OUR RELATIONS NOT ONLY WITH MALI BUT ALSO
WITH UPPER VOLTA.

2. I PERSONALLY DO NOT FIND ARGUMENTS CONTAINED REFTTEL
AS ENTIRELY CONVINCING. IF BORDER SITUATION AT MOMENT
IS AT EXTREMELY CRITICAL STAGE, IT IS LARGELY OF MALI'S
OWN MAKING. MILITARY SUBCOMMISSION HAS MONITORED TROOP
WITHDRAWALS ON VOLTAN SIDE AND FOUNDN THAT VOLTAN
ARMY HAD WITHDRAWN NOT JUST FIVE KILOMETERS FROM CONTESTED
AREA (AS AGREED TO AT LOME) BUT AS MUCH AS 20
KILOMETERS. ON OTHER HAND, MALI HAS REFUSED TO
RECEIVE MILITARY SUBCOMMISSION AND, ACCORDING TO
PRESIDENT LAMIZANA, IS STILL SENDING PATROLS REGULARLY
INTO CONTESTED AREA. FACT THAT DOUKARA HAS INFORMED
MIXED COMMISSION THAT GOM WOULD NOT ALLOW ITS DELIBERA-
TIONS TO DRAG ON INDEFINITELY SOUNDS TO ME LIKE SOME
SORT OF ULTIMATUM AND DOES NOT AUGUR WELL FOR PEACEFUL
SOLUTION OF CONFLICT.

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3. I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT MALIANS ARE PERFECTLY SATISFIED WITH U.S. POSITION AS OUTLINED STATE 275030 BUT I MUST POINT OUT THAT VOLTANS, FOR THEIR PART, ARE NOT AT ALL SATISFIED WITH IT. I CAN ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE MANY TYPES IN MALI WHO DO NOT WISH US WELL, BUT FACT IS THAT IN UPPER VOLTA, ON THE CONTRARY MOST PEOPLE DO WISH US WELL.

4. I CANNOT HELP BUT FEEL THAT IN CONTINUING TO KOWTOW TO MALIAN SUSPICIONS AND INTRANSIGENCE, WE, AND OTHER POWERS, ARE ENCOURAGING THE TYPE OF BEHAVIOR WHICH WILL MAKE THE WORK OF THE MEDIATION COMMISSION EXTREMELY DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE. THERE ARE GOOD REASONS FOR NEWC VISIT TO UPPER VOLTA THIS YEAR SINCE LAST YEAR'S VISIT WAS TO MALI AND SINCE OUAGADOUGOU IS CENTER FOR SAHELIAN RELIEF EFFORT. IT MALIANS, WHO ARE PRESUMABLY WELL ACQUAINTED WITH PURPOSE OF NEC FIELD TRIPS, DECIDE TO REGARD VISIT AS UNFRIENDLY ACT, I WOULD BE INCLINED TO SAY "SO BE IT." MALI SEEMS TO HAVE NO QUALMS IN VOTING REGULARLY AGAINST US IN ALL INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND IF ANYBODY IS ENTITLED TO COMPLAIN, I SUSPECT OUR CASE IS BETTER DOCUMENTED THAN MALI'S.

5. HAVING SAID ALL THIS, I MUST CONFESS THAT I DO NOT CONSIDER NWC VISIT TO UPPER VOLTA TO BE VITAL TO MAINTENANCE OF GOOD RELATIONS HERE. BY VISITING ANOTHER SAHELIAN STATE, NWC STUDY GROUP WILL NOT GET EXACTLY WHAT IT WAS LOOKING FOR AN, BY BEING REASONABLE AND EASIER TO DEAL WITH, UPPER VOLTA WILL BE LEFT OUT. NEVERTHELESS, IF DEPARTMENT DECIDES TO CANCEL THE VISIT, I DO NOT FORESEE ANY DIFFICULTY HERE, EVEN IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT AMBASSADOR YAGUIBOU HAS SOMEHOW GOTTEN WIND OF ORIGINAL ITINERARY.
GRAHAM

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